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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 832  
By Walker (Blount)

A RESOLUTION relative to human organ donation and  
transplantation.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly has been and continues to be a leader in promoting human organ donation, as evidenced by the passage of "The William J. Warner Green Hills Rotary Club Organ Procurement Act of 1997"; and

WHEREAS, the present system for the allocation and distribution of human organs for transplantation has been designed by the consensus of transplant professionals, transplant recipients, and donor families to serve the interests of the vast majority of patients awaiting transplants; and

WHEREAS, the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services has recently indicated a desire to unilaterally alter this system to the apparent benefit of a small number of transplant centers; and

WHEREAS, these anticipated changes would adversely affect the health and well-being of the citizens of the State of Tennessee who are awaiting liver transplants by denying them lifesaving transplants or forcing them to travel and reside far from home, often out-of-state, at extraordinary expense, and by denying them the care currently being provided by transplant centers in our state; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-  
HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE

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CONCURRING, That this General Assembly hereby expresses dismay at this ill-conceived proposal and most fervently and resolutely urges and encourages the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services to refrain from pursuing the implementation of this action to alter the present system for the allocation and distribution of human organs for transplantation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this General Assembly affirms its confidence in the present allocation system which gives priority to the use of organs donated by the citizens of the State of Tennessee to provide lifesaving transplants to other citizens of Tennessee who are in need.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this General Assembly hereby expresses its collective intention to pursue legislative remedies, if necessary, to prevent the implementation of a system of human organ allocation in which the citizens of the State of Tennessee would be unfairly disadvantaged.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Tennessee General Assembly pledges to do its utmost to preserve the present system for the allocation and distribution of human organs for transplantation and hereby urges and encourages other state legislatures to take similar actions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the House is hereby directed to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the Honorable Donna Shalala, Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, 200 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20201.